her women, flowered her choicest bloom,
Chand Bibi, In every part a counterpart of
Europe's greatest queen.

First In birth and education, the daughter
of a royal house, of the King of Ahmednagar,
she spoke many languages—Persian, Arabic,
and Turkish. She painted flowers well, and
played on the vina, and sang. Then, in
strength of character, Chand Bibi was more
human than Elizabeth, for she married a man,
as well as her people, and swayed him as
cleverly. He took no other wife or paramour
—a most rare condition in an Islamite and a
king, especially as Chand Bibi had no children.
The jealous gods had struck her this cruellest
blow to an eastern woman. So great is the
horror thereof that, in this most altruistic of
communities, no wife will lend her sari * to a
childless woman. Yet the women of Bijapur
rose up *en masse* to hoot Kamil Khan, the
traitor to their queen. They rained dust and
ashes as he rode through the streets. Chand
Bibi needed her strength. The gods never

rested. They tore her husband, Adil Shah,
from her arms. He died (1580) after she had
helped him build a kingdom, as well as its

* An Indian woman's dress.

fairest